

Decision Record

DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2015-0006-CX
FF095642

The Dept. of the Army, Outdoor Recreation Center has submitted an renewal application for a Special Recreation Permit to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eastern Interior Field Office to conduct guided trips within the White Mountains National Recreation Area (NRA) and Steese National Conservation Area (NCA). The DFMWR has requested to continue conducting up to eleven guided day and overnight trips primarily in the White Mountains that would include hiking, skiing, off-highway vehicle use (both summer and winter), and bicycling.

Decision:

It is my decision to authorize the DFMWR to conduct trips within the White Mountains NRA and Steese NCA as proposed in their action plan. A Special Recreation Permit will be issued to DFMWR to conduct guided trips in these areas until December 31, 2019 when the permit will expire. In addition, the permittee will need to comply with the attached Standard Operating Procedures and Special Stipulations and other annual permit requirements. The rationale for this decision and conditions of approval are listed below.

Rationale:

The environmental effects of this action were considered in DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2015-0006-CX and were found to have no significant impacts, thus an environmental impact statement is not required.

1. The proposed action is consistent with the use of public lands under the authority of Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act and the regulations found in 43 CFR 2930.
2. The proposed action would not impact salmon or habitat known to support salmon and therefore, the proposed action was assigned the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Determination: No effect, and no further EFH consultation is required.
3. There are no anticipated impacts to cultural resources by the Proposed Action.
4. This proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. No reasonably foreseeable and significant decrease in the abundance of harvestable resources, alteration in the distribution of harvestable resources, or limitations on harvester access will result from the proposed action.
5. Standard Operating Procedures for the Special Recreation Permit FF095642 will be attached to the permit.

/s/ Chel Ethun Acting For
Lenore Heppler
Manager, Eastern Interior Field Office

2/25/2015

Date

Appeal Provisions:

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the authorized officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)).

Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the authorized officer at Eastern Interior Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks Alaska 99709. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the authorized officer. If you wish to file a petition for stay of the effectiveness of this decision pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and must show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (3) The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay. If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the authorized officer. A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99508, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the authorized officer and/or IBLA.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Collin Cogley at the Eastern Interior Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709, or by telephone at 907-474-2382.